



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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Governor Hoeven Proclaims *Women's Way* Day in North Dakota
First Lady Hosts Event Celebrating 10th Anniversary of Women's Way Program

BISMARCK, N.D. – To recognize 10 years of service to North Dakota women, Governor John Hoeven has proclaimed Sept. 18, 2007, as *Women's Way* Day in North Dakota.

Women's Way is North Dakota's Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. The program works to reduce breast and cervical cancer deaths by increasing education and preventive screening among low-income, medically underserved, high-risk and minority women ages 40 to 64.

Women's Way screened its first client in September 1997; since then, 8,883 North Dakota women have received lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings and services. In addition, 141 breast cancers and 792 cervical pre-cancers and cancers were diagnosed and treated for women who otherwise may not have sought medical care.

First Lady Mikey Hoeven hosted an anniversary celebration at the Governor's Residence today for about 90 *Women's Way* clients, volunteers and health partners.

"As women, we often put our family's needs before our own. Unfortunately, that can mean neglecting our health," Mrs. Hoeven said. "This 10th anniversary celebration highlights how important it is for us women to take care of ourselves and our health."

At the anniversary celebration, Kathryn Wentz, a *Women's Way* client and breast cancer survivor from Bismarck, spoke about her experiences with the program. She recalled how she discovered a lump in her breast and kept it secret for at least a year because she didn't have health insurance and couldn't pay for cancer tests or treatments. After enrolling in *Women's Way*, Kathryn underwent tests that diagnosed stage 3 cancer. Since then, the Medicaid – *Women's Way* Treatment Program has helped her pay for cancer treatment.

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Delores (Foxy) Brunen of New Salem has been a *Women's Way* client since the program began in 1997. At the anniversary celebration, she talked about what a relief it has been to know she can get yearly mammograms. Now, she spreads the word to her clients and friends about the services of *Women's Way*.

For more information about *Women's Way*, contact Mary Ann Foss, director of the *Women's Way* Program for the North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2333 or visit www.ndhealth.gov/womensway.

Please note: Proclamation follows.

Proclamation
WOMEN'S WAY DAY
September 18, 2007

WHEREAS, *Women's Way* serves North Dakota women as the North Dakota Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program; and

WHEREAS, *Women's Way* works to reduce breast and cervical cancer deaths by increasing education and preventive screening among low-income, medically underserved, high-risk and minority women ages 40 to 64; and

WHEREAS, *Women's Way* screened its first client in September of 1997; and

WHEREAS, since 1997, 8,883 North Dakota women have received lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings and services; and

WHEREAS, 141 breast cancers and 792 cervical pre-cancers and cancers were diagnosed and treated through *Women's Way* for women who otherwise may not have sought medical care; and

WHEREAS, about 22,000 North Dakota women are potentially eligible for *Women's Way* services; and

WHEREAS, I encourage eligible women to seek the lifesaving services of *Women's Way*.

NOW, THEREFORE, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim September 18, 2007, **WOMEN'S WAY DAY** in the state of North Dakota.

John Hoeven
Governor

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